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C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 001094

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [KPAL](#) [JO](#) [IS](#)

SUBJECT: RETURN OF JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL

REF: SATTERFIELD/HALE TELCONS

Classified By: Charge David Hale, Reasons 1.4 (B) & (D)

1. (C) After Charge expressed U.S. concern about the vagueness on the timing of the return of Jordan's Ambassador to Israel late February 8, Foreign Minister al-Mulki informed that he would convoke the Israeli Ambassador in Amman on February 9 and seek agreement for Jordan's nominee. At that point, Israel would be free to make any statements it chose on the matter. Once agreement was granted, Mulki assured Charge, Jordan's nominee would move to Israel as soon as possible. No cabinet decision was required, he said, although Mulki acknowledged he and the government spokeswoman had indicated otherwise publicly for domestic political reasons.

2. (C) On February 9, Israeli Ambassador Handelsman met with the Foreign Minister's private office director, Rajab al-Suqairi. He was given a note verbale seeking agreement for Ambassador Ma'rouf Al-Bakhit, Jordan's current Ambassador in Ankara. Suqairi said as soon as agreement was granted, Jordan would process Bakhit's move to Israel as quickly as possible. Jordan had no objection to a statement by Israel that it had received Jordan's agreement request.

3. (C) Handelsman said he also discussed with Suqairi possible dates for an early visit to Jordan by Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom.

HALE